of the street lights—and no wonder—as well, no doubt, as of the house lights likewise, although the darkness that there prevails—in gas light, at least,—is not yet so visible as it will be when another half-crown or two is deducted from the prohibitive price.——A correspondent, "X. Y. Z.," informs us that The Movement is at work in Slough, where Mr. J. C. Buckmaster has been endeavouring to enlighten the inhabitants, both mentally and ocularly, by lecturing on the subject, and advising the Sloughites to take so safe an investment into their own hands ere the Great Western monopolize it, (by the establishment of some coke manufactory, we presume). His hearers took the hint, and next day called a meeting and opened a share-list with 500*l.* on the spot.——A company, too, was lately initiatived at Tottenham and Edmonton to purchase the private works recently erected there, for the purpose of pushing the supplies into private houses, and meeting the increasing demand which cannot be supplied by the metropolitan establishments,—from a deficiency, it must be, either in quantity, quality, or price, but most probably from a threefold deficiency in all these essential respects. The projected company was gone into with the anticipation of realizing 6 per cent. the first year, and "greatly increased dividends in future." We have not yet heard how it further progresses.——The gas monopoly in Marylebone is likely to be very soon broken up, so far, at least, by the introduction of the pipes of the Kensal-green New Western establishment, which is expected to give an article 75 per cent. stronger and purer at the present price. The subject was the other day discussed in the vestry's committee, and resolutions in favour of a trial of the new company passed.——In consequence of the important and significant movement of certain manufacturing and other firms towards the manufacture of their own gas, the Lincoln Gas Company were again lately urged by some of their own shareholders to authorize "a still further reduction of the price, as a boon to the consumer, and a matter of policy, *to prevent private enterprize in the manufacture.*" The shareholders, however, were too inert, at the moment at least, for such a motion, but "there cannot be a doubt," as the *Lincolnshire Times* lately remarked, "that little time will now elapse before the company will [be compelled to] reduce the price from 7s. 6d. to 5s. per thousand," and the demand will then, it is believed, be greatly augmented.——Dissatisfaction, however, is working its own remedy elsewhere than in Lincoln alone. The Winchester consumers cannot see why they should be called upon to pay the enormous price of 11s., while at Southampton the charge is now reduced to 6s., and this is likely hence to be 'the winter of their discontent,' which will be followed by a summer of comparative satisfaction.——The Romsey gas consumers have been grumbling, and aggrieved, not only at the enormity of the price of their gas—12s. 6d. per 1,000—but at being obliged to pay more for it than the commissioners for lighting the town do. The commissioners have *power*, probably: they are united as an association, and might soon erect gas works for themselves, as other companies are doing and threatening to do. The shareholders at Romsey, however, were alarmed at even the shadow of a gas league which the one common grumble evinced, and accordingly came seriously to consider of the prudence of slackening the rein by a reduction of 3s. 6d. per 1,000, leaving 9s., which the hopeless disunited are inclined to regard as a 'reasonable charge!'——The 'British' Branch Company have been feasting 'several of the *large* consumers' at Norwich!—as if the Norwich public were not the largest consumers in the town. Mr. Wilkin, who presided, also intimated to the large consumers a reduction of price from 6s. 8d. to 5s. 10d., and assured them that "this reduction was a voluntary act on the part of the directors, and did not arise from any pressure from without"—recent threats and doings of 'large consumers,' a little to the west-north-west of Norwich, and nearer home, notwithstanding. The 'British,' however, as times go, must be allowed the credit of setting a fair example to other 'British' gasholders, in further intimating, that if their present reduction lead to a further diffusion, that diffusion will lead to a still further reduction, as their only desire is 'to realize a fair and legitimate profit.' The sooner a multitude of other companies *profit* by this example the better for themselves as well as for consumers—large and small.——On account of the high price of the article in Barnsley, says the *Doncaster Gazette*, the shopkeepers, with a view to abridge their gas bills, have, one and all, taken the pruning-knife and lopped off two hours' burning from their lights.——At Doncaster itself, by the way, the price has been reduced from 6s. 8d. to 5s. 10d. Every little helps towards what seems to be earnestly yearned for at Doncaster as well as every where else, viz., "the introduction of gas into dwelling-houses and other places which have not hitherto enjoyed the advantages of a safe, cheap, and brilliant light." For public companies at Doncaster,—in whom even the Doncaster Gas Company seem still to stand in salutary awe—the price charged is only 3s. 0½d. per 1,000 feet. But why not regard the *public* itself as a *large company*, and charge them all the same? *It is indeed a company—a league alone—that will do.* Why, the average prices charged to public companies almost everywhere else, significantly point in the same direction, when contrasted with the heavier charges wrung from the less formidable, because not yet associated, public itself. We shall take another opportunity of enlarging a little further on this point, but, in the meantime, we may just allow our gas-consuming readers to ruminate a little on the hint already given—especially when reinforced, in the meantime, by such facts as these (of which, also, more anon), viz.—that the average price paid by public companies at Bradford, Barnsley, Dewsbury, Halifax, Huddersfield, Leeds, Pontefract, Rotherham, Sheffield, Wakefield, &c., is very little more than that at Doncaster, namely, 3s. 3½d. per 1,000.——A new consumers' company, by the way, was some time ago determined on at Belper, where the price to 'private consumers' has been 9s. per 1,000 cubic feet. This is the way to convert *small* consumers into *large* ones, only they must feast themselves. We have not heard, however, what has been the result of this attempt to 'light the town of Belper in a more effective and less expensive manner than it is at present lighted.' Safer investments than *many* such projects must inevitably prove to be, in preparation for the coming 'general illumination,' cannot well be conceived.——There seems to be now no doubt of the staminal vitality—suspended, in the meantime, though it be—of those competitive measures that were brought before the Parliament which is now itself defunct. We specially allude to the Liverpool Consumers' Company, and that of the Southampton Consumers. As the *Albion* reminds its readers, the committee of the Guardian have already saved nearly 50,000*l.* per annum to the people of Liverpool—ay, while even greatly improving the *acknowledged* prospects of those very companies from whose pockets the 50,000*l.* per annum have been taken or withheld! The Guardian therefore OUGHT TO LIVE. As for the Southampton consumers, they have already manifested unequivocal symptoms of a revival from the suspended animation of the interregnum, having now issued their notices of movement in the new Parliament.——A sort of small ferment has been excited by the Gas Committee at Walsall announcing that they would refuse to supply gas to any party not employing one particular gas-fitter for the erection and repair of their fittings, the interests of that favourite one being further supported by the equivocal compliment to all other gas-fitters, in Walsall or out of Walsall, understood, though not expressed, in the assurance that this determination was come to for the purpose of preventing the "loss and danger arising from the imperfect manner in which the work may be done by other parties." The consumers imagined that they ought to have been allowed the possession of some small discretion and judgment in a matter affecting their own interest and safety no less than that of the gas committee; and that they had a clear right to employ the cheapest and best gas-fitter that could be had. A motion was accordingly lately made in council, and carried by a majority of one, in recognition of the public right.——Of the progress of the gas movement elsewhere we have much more to add than what we can possibly find room for, but we may just briefly observe, in conclusion, that the old Brighton Gaslight and Coke Company have—some time ago indeed—reduced their price by meter from 7s. to 6s.; that gas works are about to be established at Morley, Staindrop, Brierley-hill, Alfreton (where they are already in progress indeed), and elsewhere, and that a successful experiment has been made at Hartlepool in lighting the lighthouse there,—the first on a large scale or of any great importance that has yet been lit with gas.

LONDON UNION-WORKHOUSE COMPETITION.

In reply to the advertisements for designs for a workhouse, declaring "that the architect of the design which should be selected by the guardians as the most eligible for their purpose, should be engaged to superintend the execution of the same; that the architect of the design secondly selected should have a premium of 100*l.*; and the architect of the design thirdly selected should have a premium of 50*l.*,"—forty-three designs were sent in, two of which the committee appointed to examine them rejected, as "not being in accordance with the instructions." The received designs were then hung up in two rooms at the Auction Mart, and eleven of them were first selected. Ultimately, three were chosen from these by the committee—Nos. 7, 15, and 18, and their choice being ratified by the board, the authors of these were declared to be the successful candidates, in the following order:—1. Mr. Tress (No. 7, "*Vivo Spem*"?); 2. Mr. Daukes (No. 15, "*Humanitas*"?); and 3. Mr. Taylor (No. 18).

The decision has brought us at least a quire of MS., setting forth the whole matter in the strongest language as an unmitigated job, demanding the strictest inquiry. We have not yet seen the designs, having been refused admittance last week with such small courtesy as made us pity the poor paupers, and therefore cannot speak so loudly and so clearly as would otherwise be the case. We cannot hesitate to say, however, on the evidence before us, that the accommodation afforded by the plan selected for execution (No. 7), is quite inadequate, the classification defective, and the circumstances attending the selection suspicious. We earnestly entreat the guardians (some of whom, we know, condemn the decision entirely) to seek professional assistance in the examination, and to pause before they consummate an injustice.

WESTMINSTER COURT OF SEWERS.

A GENERAL court was held on Friday, the 19th inst., Capt. Bague in the chair.

Fever in Soho.—A letter was received from the inhabitants of Charles-street, Soho, in confirmation of one received at the last court, complaining that cesspools existed in the houses, of the most offensive description; that one death had taken place by typhus fever engendered thereby; and calling upon the court to extinguish the evil. The clerk of the works for the district (Mr. Webber) upon being called on for his opinion, said he examined the premises in question, and that cesspools certainly existed, but that there was a very efficient sewer in front of these very houses, if parties would only avail themselves of it. It was then agreed that notices should be served upon the owners of the premises, under the provisions of the new Act, calling upon them at once to drain the said houses into the public sewer.

The Drainage of Long Acre.—The court next proceeded to open tenders for the construction of 1,825 feet of sewer in Long Acre, which were as under:—

Yeoman	£1,112
Hill	1,022
J. and S. Williams	910
Robinson	894
Dethick	843
Humphreys & Thirst (accepted)	779

After which the following tenders were received for 1,130 feet of sewer in Newman-street, Oxford-street:—

J. F. Watson	£900
Yeoman	879
Hill	866
Radley and Rogers	850
C. Bell	840
J. and S. Williams	805
Robinson	795
Perkins	766
Humphreys and Thirst	739
Dethick (accepted)	723

To learn how to use PDF Compression and OCR visit ThePaperlessOffice.org